THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Occurrence and filling up of vacancies being a continuous process the position regarding the number of vacancies keeps changing from month to month. However, as on 01.09.2004 there were 78,638 vacancies as against the sanctioned strength of 6,30,706 in Safety Categories in Group 'C' and 'D' on the Railways constituting 12.47% of the total sanctioned strength in these categories. Railways have been directed to fill up these vacancies as also the vacancies in security and operational categories either by direct recruitment from open market or promotion from amongst serving staff, as the case may be by the year 2006.

Vacancies in Group 'B' and Group 'A' are also filled as per prescribed standing procedure.

Prescribed percentage of reservation will continue to apply in filling up of these vacancies.

Connecting Hajira Port to Hinterland

296. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) looking at industrial growth of the area around Hajira Port, whether the Ministry of Railways propose to connect Hajira Port to its hinterland;

(b) whether Government propose to extend the siding track of KRIBHCO up to Hajira; and

(c) if so, the proposed time-frame for completion of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The proposed connection to Hajira Port is a part of National Rail Vikas Yojana.

(b) As per the techno-economie feasibility survey, the new line is proposed parallel to the existing KRIBHCO siding.

(c) The construction will be taken up on completion of the project development, agreement of strategic partners in financial participation and sanction of the project. At present, the project development is in progress.

Replacement of level-crossings in Uttar Pradesh

297. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of level crossings in Uttar Pradesh as on 31st March, 2004 which qualify for replacement with road over bridge/road under bridge on 50 per cent cost sharing basis with the State Government/concerned local bodies;

(b) whether any specific level crossings for replacement have been identified; if so, the locations thereof;

(c) whether any plan for the purpose has been drawn for the next three years; and

(d) if so, the funds required to be made available by the State Government/concerned local bodies over the said period, separately, by the State Government and the concerned local bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The number of level crossings which qualify for replacement by Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges on cost sharing basis as on 31.3.2004 in the State of Uttar Pradesh is 180.

(b) to (d) The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has been advised of the level crossings qualifying the requisite criteria and to sponsor the proposals for construction of Road Over/under bridges on cost sharing basis. The priority for sponsoring the proposals has to be drawn by the State Government.